



# St Joseph's Primary School Newsletter

## Frightful Halloween Friday!

'On our special Halloween Friday, we celebrated this spooky holiday by dressing up and carving pumpkins for our class. Getting dressed up into superheroes was a blast, especially seeing our classmates and other year groups' costumes, as well as getting a sight of the spine-chilling decorations all around the school like the cobwebs on the MUGA fence put up by the Parent Council. Afterwards, we went to view everyone's Witchy Windows and petrifying pumpkin patches, which was exciting due to being able to see what unique ideas they had that were different from ours. After lunch was filled with ghoulish games and thrilling fun! First was 'Pin the bow on the Skeleton,' which consisted of being given a sticker and placing it on its collar. Another game was 'Poke-a-Pumpkin' that was organised and made by the Parent Council along with many more other treats for us, the game allowing us to use a small pin to poke through the orange crepe paper covering a cup. Inside was a sweet treat for us and a small toy, or a silly little trick! Prizes were given out to the best costumes of the school from the upper, middle and lower schools, the winners being Isa from P7, Arianna from P4 and Mary-Anne from P1, but all the costumes were amazing! Primary 6b won the best Pumpkin Patch too. Altogether, our spooktacular Friday was one of the best school days ever! We thank the teachers and the Parent Council, as well as the mums and dads, for all their hard work and making Friday exciting and fun for us all, along with putting an effort into making it spectacular, even with the current circumstances making it harder for us to do things we'd usually get to do this time of year.'

By Jemma Clear and Niamh McGovern P7b

Over the last few months our focus has been on recovery; One of the most important aspects of recovery is the mental wellbeing of our children and creating a happy and safe environment for them. Thank you for all your support, especially our Parent Council Social Committee who were fantastic and they even managed to make £598 from the event after their expenditure! All funds raised will go back in to school activities. Read on to find out about our plans for a Winter Wonderland, we hope the Parent Council Social Committee are ready for this!

Mrs Suzanne Martin  
Head Teacher

November 2020



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# Dyslexia Awareness Week 2th - 7th November

Please see below a message from the St Joseph's Dyslexia Group.

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Dyslexia impacts us all in a different way. Some of us are good at reading and spelling but find it hard to organise and remember things. Others find it a challenge to read and spell. We are able to unlock our potential by using different strategies that allow us to train our brains to focus our attention and use computers, thinking time and mind maps. Dyslexic people are often creative people who are good at seeing the big picture, finding patterns and bringing together information from different places. We also tend to be great problem solvers and "think outside of the box." The advantage of dyslexia is that our brain puts information into our heads in a different way which allows us to think the way we do.

Being part of the Dyslexia Team encourages us, gives us motivation and helps to build our self-esteem knowing that there are other people in our class who think just like us.

We have faith in ourselves, we say yes, not no and we never give up!

**St Joseph's Dyslexia Team**

In St Joseph's Primary we have many children who have dyslexia. Our children and staff do not see this label, they see the child. Every child with dyslexia is different and unique, they have amazing talents and skills and are an important part of our St Joseph's family. This year our Dyslexia group plans to raise awareness through class presentations, assembly and providing blue ribbons to their peers.

Advice and support on dyslexia can be found here: <https://www.dyslexiascotland.org.uk>

## Playground installation

As you can see from the pictures, our new playground equipment has been installed! Due to the delay and the weather now turning, we are unable to use the equipment for a few weeks to allow the area to drain. Be assured we will have the children on it as soon as we are able to.



## Allergies

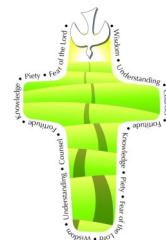
Please be aware that we have children in our school with severe allergies. Children are reminded not to share their snacks or lunch with any other child.

In order to keep our children safe we would like to remind you that our school is a nut free zone .

## Pope Francis Faith Award Newsletter

Our Primary 6 and 7 have been looking at alternative ways they can achieve their Parish commendation this session as they are not able to help during Mass. The result of their brainstorming and hard work is a St Joseph's Primary School Pope Francis Faith award Newsletter which we are delighted to send you today. Well done to our Primary 6 and 7 children for their fantastic effort which has been recognised by SCES Director, Barbara Couper who emailed her congratulations:

'I very much liked their emphasis on the gifts and it was lovely to read the interview with Fr Stephen!'



# Winter Wonderland!

We seem to have set the bar high with our Halloween success but we are always looking for ways to improve, so here are our plans for our St Joseph's Winter Wonderland on Thursday 17th December:

- ❄️ Christmas Party outfits can be worn
- ❄️ All children will visit Santa in his special outdoor grotto (sshhh, don't tell the children!)
- ❄️ Santa will bring his reindeer with him to visit us!
- ❄️ All classes will create a Winter Wonderland Window.
- ❄️ Hot Chocolate stand !
- ❄️ Christmas Parties

.....and I am sure we will think of more before then!

## Nativity Time!

We know how important Nativities are to our children and parents so we fully intend to have our yearly Nativities for Primary 1 and 2. The performance will be recorded and uploaded onto your child's Google Classroom before the 18th December. We wish we could have you in our school to watch but this is the next best option!



## Advent Services

This year P3-7 will hold an Advent service with in their class. This service will be recorded and uploaded onto your child's Google Classroom. We know it is very different this year but we still want to involve our parents as much as possible.

## Parent Council

The next online meeting of our Parent Council will be held on Tuesday 24 November at 7pm. If you would like to attend this meeting please contact the Parent Council Secretary, Katrina Adams, who will send you a link to the meeting. Please note that any issues to be raised at Parent Council meetings should be sent to the Parent Council secretary and, where appropriate, will be discussed at the meeting. As members of the parent forum any parent is entitled to attend and we welcome new faces (even on Zoom!).

## COVID 19 Update

As of Monday 2 November, new guidelines have been introduced in Primary schools as part of the tier system. As East Renfrewshire is currently in tier 3 of restrictions staff are required to wear face coverings when they are unable to socially distance from other members of staff or pupils (exceptions for Primary 1 and 2 pupils).

Parents are requested to wear face coverings at drop off and pick times. This will ensure the safety of all parents if you are unable to remain socially distanced from others. Thank you for continuing to support us by wearing your masks.



## Adverse Weather

As we are now in the period of unpredictable weather I would ask that you check our school website regarding closures due to adverse weather conditions. Our website is updated regularly and an email will be sent out when required.

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/er/StJosephs/information/adverse-weather/>

# November Dates

Date	Time	Event	Stage
w/c 2 <sup>nd</sup> November		Dyslexia Awareness Week	
w/c 2 <sup>nd</sup> November		Catholic Education Week	
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	3.15pm – 5.15pm	Parents Evening Telephone Meetings	All year groups
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	All day	P7b Bikeability – On the Road	P7b
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup>	3.15pm – 4.15pm	Parents Evening Telephone Meetings	All year groups
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup>	All day	P7a Bikeability – On the Road	P7a
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup>	3.15pm – 5.15pm	Parents Evening Telephone Meetings	All year groups
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup>	3.15pm – 5.15pm	Parents Evening Telephone Meetings	All year groups
Thursday 12th	Morning	K Comerford (Active Schools Coordinator) working with P1's	P1
Thursday 19th	Morning	K Comerford (ASC) working with P1's	P1
Thursday 26th	Morning	K Comerford (ASC) working with P1's	P1